



## HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

### **Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Dan Donovan (R-NY) Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communication Subcommittee**

*Subcommittee Markup: H.R. 5346, H.R. 5459, & H.R. 5460  
June 16, 2016*

#### Remarks as Prepared

I am pleased the Subcommittee is meeting this morning to consider three bills that are a result of information sharing and testimony at Subcommittee hearings and meetings with stakeholders.

First, the Subcommittee will consider H.R. 5459, the Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016. I introduced H.R. 5459 to address a number of findings from our May 24th joint hearing on cyber preparedness. These findings include the need to:

- enhance cyber risk information sharing with State and major urban area fusion centers;
- share information on best practices with state and local stakeholders;
- clarify the eligibility of State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative funding for cybersecurity enhancements; and
- work to combat the over-classification of cyber risk information so it can be shared more broadly with stakeholders with a need to know.

I appreciate the Ranking Member joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Following H.R. 5459, we will consider H.R. 5460, the First Responder Innovative Technologies Act, introduced by Ranking Member Payne. This bill seeks to establish a uniform review process for State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Area Security Initiative applications seeking to purchase equipment that does not meet or exceed national voluntary consensus standards.

In this continuously changing threat environment, first responders rely on equipment and technology to meet their vital missions. As was demonstrated at the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology demo day I had the opportunity to participate in yesterday, the private sector and government are continuously working to develop innovative technology.

The Committee has learned, however, that the development of voluntary consensus standards does not always keep pace with this innovation and FEMA does not have a uniform review process for these kinds of applications, nor do they have a mechanism to consider applications for equipment for which no voluntary consensus standard exists. Ranking Member Payne's bill seeks to establish a common sense process and I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

Finally, the Subcommittee will consider H.R. 5346, the Securing our Agriculture and Food Act, introduced by the gentleman from Iowa, Congressman David Young. This bill seeks to authorize the Department of Homeland Security's Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense Program within the Office of Health Affairs.

This Subcommittee held a hearing on February 26th to examine the potential devastating impacts of an intentional attack on, or natural disruption of, U.S. agricultural or food production systems, one of our Nation's critical infrastructure sectors. Coming from Iowa, Congressman Young knows all too well the importance of protecting this sector, which is vital to the economy and our way of life. I appreciate him introducing this bill, which I am pleased to cosponsor.

I want to thank all of the Members for working together in a bipartisan fashion to advance these bills. This morning's markup is just the beginning of the process and I look forward to working with Members and stakeholders to further enhance these bills as we prepare for Full Committee markup and floor consideration.

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